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Life Skills Key to Graduating on Time & Saving Money, College Dean says

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee, Wis. April 27, 2017 – How can college students avoid massive debt and make the most of their college experience? Develop effective study, organizational, and life skills as early as possible, according to **College Smart**[®], <http://getcollegesmart.com/> a three-book series for students, parents and educators aimed at helping kids prepare for college, graduate on time and save money.

Why is it important for students to learn these skills early? Thirty percent of college freshman at 4-year colleges drop out after the first year. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, only 53 percent of students who started a four-year degree in 2009 have graduated six years later. And today the national student debt is currently \$1.3 trillion according to research via the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. More years in school mean added financial stress for parents and students in a challenging economy.

During his 25 years of advising thousands of students through the college academic process, author Bob Neuman PhD and former Associate Dean for Student Academic Development at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, gradually discovered that many young people were unprepared for college. He knows students have the ability to do college level work and believes they just need a set of strategies that will help them succeed academically and graduate on time.

“They’ve got a lot to learn at college from managing their time and studying independently to dealing with their stress,” Dr. Neuman said. “My goal is to help them learn to manage these challenges so that they can maximize their college experience.”

College Smart[®] is a three-book series that lays out an action plan to help students establish specific goals, begin thinking about a direction in life and ultimately, develop skills that will help with career advancement in today’s fast-paced global workplace.

Book #1: College Smart® introduces 12 time-tested strategies for success — from high school through college to career. Teens can even start the book as early as middle school. The longer students practice the College Smart® strategies, the more skilled they become in school and in a career.

Book #2: College Smart® Practical Tips for Parents explains concrete ways that parents can help kids appreciate what their education can do for them, like grow in independence, ~~and~~ make good decisions, and think about careers. Parents can also help their kids become future directed by casually introducing “look ahead” conversations, sharing stories: what happens in the workplace and how family members discovered careers.

Book #3: Start College Smart® is aimed at students starting college. It will help students get off on the right foot by understanding college expectations and learning how very different college is from high school. Students will also get insights into all that's entailed in learning independently and learn how to take advantage of college offerings, both inside and outside the classroom.

The **College Smart®** series is now available at www.getcollegesmart.com and amazon.com. It is a useful resource not just for college-bound or college students. High school counselors, college advisors, teachers, and professors will find the CollegeSmart® system invaluable. The books can be used in various ways including:

- High school orientation programs, counseling centers, guidance counselors and their students
- College freshman advising programs, student orientation and career centers
- A valuable curriculum for high school study skills courses
- Books recommended to families at parent-teacher conferences

About the Author

Robert Neuman is a national expert in college preparation and performance and author of *Are You Really Ready for College: A College Dean's 12 Secrets for Success*. For more than 25 years, he has advised more than 12,000 students and their parents as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University. He's also the father of a practicing lawyer, who successfully completed college in four years, graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, followed with an MBA and law degree. Dr. Bob has been quoted in USA Today, Wall Street Journal on Campus, Washington Post online, U.S. News & World Report College Editions, and The New York Times.